

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 05068 161349Z

11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /075 W
----- 012761

R 161302Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8977
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5068

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, NL
SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO MILITARY PROCUREMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 1535

1. IN A COMPROMISE MOVE, LEADERSHIP OF THE SECOND CHAMBER IN STATES GENERAL HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO PROCUREMENT POLICIES OF DUTCH AIR FORCE AND NAVY. AGREEMENT ON FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN NAMED BUT IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE DEFENSE, FINANCIAL AND LEGAL EXPERTS, DID NOT GO AS FAR AS SOCIALISTS AND THEIR ALLIES WOULD HAVE LIKED BUT DOES PROVIDE A ROLE FOR PARLIAMENT IN LOOKING INTO QUESTIONS OF DEFENSE PURCHASES WHICH HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF THEIR GOALS.

2. EARLIER THIS YEAR LEFT-WING GOVERNMENT PARTIES PUSHED FOR A FORMAL PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION ON THIS SUBJECT BUT COULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 05068 161349Z

NOT GET MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE. THE IDEA

GOT RENEWED SUPPORT WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE DONNER COMMISSION REPORT ON PRINCE BERNHARD, BUT THE PROPONENTS STILL DID NOT GET APPROVAL FOR A FORMAL PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION WHICH, UNDER DUTCH LAW, CAN COMPEL WITNESSES TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH. THE ANNOUNCED COMPROMISE CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WITHHOLDS THOSE POWERS. SHOULD THE COMMITTEE HAVE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THE FACTS IT NEEDS, IT COULD ASK THE SECOND CHAMBER TO RECONSTITUTE IT AS A FORMAL INVESTIGATORY BODY WITH "SUB-POENA" POWERS. WHILE THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION IS TO LOOK INTO AIR FORCE AND NAVY PROCUREMENT, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THOSE SERVICES HAVE BEEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT FOR AIRCRAFT PURCHASES, THE SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIAN DE BRIES TELLS US THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT THE COMMITTEE FROM INCLUDING THE ARMY IF THAT SEEMS TO BE INDICATED.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE SECOND CHAMBERS INVESTIGATION, THE GON ALSO HAS ONE UNDERWAY. ANNOUNCED BY FONMIN VAN DER STOEL IN MARCH (REFTEL), THE GOVERNMENT "MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND ARMS PROCUREMENT POLICY" STUDY HAS BEEN SLOW TO GET ORGANIZED. IT MAY BE FINALLY GETTING INTO GEAR, HOWEVER. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES SAY THAT UNTIL NOW ABOUT ALL THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IS A SERIES OF IN HOUSE DISCUSSIONS ON HOW THE STUDY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED, BUT AS A RESULT OF PRIME MINISTER UYL'S SURPRISING (TO THEM) STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT RECENTLY THAT A REPORT WILL BE READY IN THE SPRING, THE MACHINERY IS BEGINNING TO MOVE.

4. AT THE MOMENT FEW SURPRISES ARE EXPECTED FROM EITHER INVESTIGATION, PARTICULARLY THE GOVERNMENTS. THERE IS SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY. THE DONNER REPORT OPENED UP INQUIRY POSSIBILITIES IN SEVERAL CASES, LOCKHEEDS STARFIGHTER AND ORION AND NORTHRUPS COBRA. WHILE THERE WAS NO MENTION OF GENERAL DYNAMICS, THE CONTEST TO REPLACE THE F-104'S WAS SUCH THAT THE INVESTIGATION COULD EXTEND TO THE DUTCH DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE F-16 OVER ITS FRENCH, SWEDISH AND AMERICAN COMPETITORS.

5. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY, MUCH OF IT IN THE PARLIAMENT, OVER THE CAPABILITY OF THE SECOND CHAMBER TO CONDUCT AN IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION INTO ANY SUBJECT, MUCH LESS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 05068 161349Z

ONE AS COMPLEX AS MILITARY PROCUREMENT. THE PARLIAMENT IS HAMPERED IN THE FIRST PLACE BY A LACK OF MANY EXPERT MEMBERS AND BY WOEFULLY INADEQUATE STAFFING. ANOTHER LIMITING FACTOR MAY BE THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE MAJORITY TO DELVE TOO DEEPLY INTO A QUESTION WHICH, DESPITE THE LOCKHEED REVELATIONS, HAS ONLY BEEN ATTRACTIVE TO LABOR MEMBERS AND OTHERS ON THE LEFT.
GOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, COMMITTEES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA05068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760350-0958
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760951/aaaabryz.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 THE HAGUE 1535
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO MILITARY PROCUREMENT
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006